

Claims

[1] A vehicle cabin lighting apparatus characterized in comprising:

a monitor mounted to a ceiling of a vehicle cabin;

5 a monitor folding-or-unfolding detecting means for detecting whether said monitor is placed in a folded or unfolded state; and

a monitor control means for determining whether said monitor is placed in a video display mode or lighting mode based
10 on a detection output of said monitor folding-or-unfolding detecting means, for controlling an operation of said monitor according to a result of the determination, and for applying, as illumination light, light emitted out of said monitor to the vehicle cabin when said monitor is placed in the lighting mode.

15 [2] The vehicle cabin lighting apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the monitor control means controls the operation of said monitor so that said monitor enters the lighting mode when said monitor is placed in the unfolded state, and so that said monitor enters the video display mode when said
20 monitor is placed in the folded state.

[3] The vehicle cabin lighting apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the monitor control means selects and adjusts one of at least an amount, a color, and a pattern of the light emitted out of said monitor, and provides a
25 corresponding instruction to said monitor when said monitor is placed in the lighting mode.

[4] The vehicle cabin lighting apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in comprising an accommodating case having two or more openings for lighting formed at predetermined positions
30 thereof, for accommodating the monitor therein, and a light

guiding member disposed in said accommodating case, for guiding the light emitted out of said monitor to said two or more openings to apply the light to the vehicle cabin as the illumination light.

5 [5] The vehicle cabin lighting apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in comprising an accommodating case having two or more openings for lighting formed at both ends thereof, for accommodating the monitor therein, and a light guiding member
10 emitted out of said monitor to said two or more openings so that the light is reflected by the ceiling of the vehicle to apply the light to the vehicle cabin as the illumination light.

[6] The vehicle cabin lighting apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in comprising an accommodating case having two
15 or more openings for lighting formed at both ends thereof, and a hollow formed therein, for accommodating the monitor therein, and a plurality of reflectors arranged in said hollow of said accommodating case, for guiding the light emitted out of said monitor to said two or more openings so that the light is
20 reflected by the ceiling of the vehicle to apply the light to the vehicle cabin as the illumination light.

[7] The vehicle cabin lighting apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in comprising a vehicle alarm generating means connected to the monitor control means, for, when the vehicle
25 is placed in an alarm mode in which an abnormal condition occurs in the vehicle, generating an emergency alarm corresponding to the status of the vehicle.

[8] The vehicle cabin lighting apparatus according to Claim 7, characterized in that the vehicle alarm generating means
30 includes a vehicle status detecting means for detecting the

status of the vehicle, and a vehicle alarm unit for generating an alarm signal based on an output of said vehicle status detecting means, and for causing the monitor control means to generate the emergency alarm which is based on a predetermined
5 light form according to the status of the vehicle at least when the monitor is placed in the lighting mode.